



PRESS RELEASE

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TUCSON MAN SENTENCED FOR THIRD FELONY DRUG CONVICTION

TUCSON, Ariz. –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on May 4, 2004, Leonel Ernesto Villasenor, DOB 4/2/77, of Tucson, Arizona, was sentenced to 360 months in prison by United States District Judge David C. Bury, in Tucson, Ariz.

The charges stemmed from an incident that occurred on March 5, 2003, when the defendant was observed purchasing several rolls of contact paper, commonly used to package narcotics, then traveling to an isolated commercial area and attempting to enter a locked warehouse. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents eventually executed a search warrant at that warehouse and discovered 843 lbs. of marijuana inside. The defendant denied knowledge of the marijuana, but offered conflicting explanations regarding his actions.

The defendant was convicted of Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute over 100 kgs., but less than 1,000 kgs. of Marijuana by a jury in December 2003. By virtue of the defendant's two prior felony drug convictions, he was found to be a career offender and sentenced to 360 months, to be followed by four years of supervised release.

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The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-0717-TUC-DCB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-84

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